

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

QUARTERLY

# News-Letter

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*Summer 1946*

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## RARE ROWLANDSON FIND

COLLECTORS of the works of Thomas Rowlandson—we are assured there are such enthusiasts among the Club's membership—were recently amazed at a remarkable discovery. An English collector while browsing in a second-hand shop in an outlying county village came on a framed water-color drawing much obscured by a dirty glass. As the proprietor of the shop had it priced at one pound, he bought it. When the picture was cleaned and taken to Christie's, the purchaser was advised that it was Rowlandson's long-lost masterpiece, *Vauxhall Gardens*, which had been missing since 1784, the year it was exhibited in the

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Royal Academy. When it was offered for sale at the Christie Galleries, in London, on July 27th last there resulted a contest that thrilled the most sophisticated of auction room frequenters. The picture fetched the astonishing price of 2,730 pounds. This difference between purchase price and selling price is probably unique in auction annals.

All of which is a reminder that the Club, in December 1942, published a reproduction of Rowlandson's *The Beauties of Boswell*, made from one of the two complete copies known to be in existence. *The Beauties of Boswell* was first published in London in 1786, the year after James Boswell published his account of Doctor Johnson's historic journey: *The Journal of a Tour of the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson, LL.D.* Rowlandson, seeing in Boswell's text an opportunity, created a series of caricatures to which he gave this ironical title. The Grabhorn Press reproduced the series of ten drawings in color and in the exact size of the originals. Each plate is  $7\frac{5}{8}$  by  $9\frac{7}{8}$  inches, with an engraved caption below. In addition there are eight pages of letterpress and a reproduction of the table of plates from the 1786 edition. The whole is contained in an attractive portfolio of decorated boards with linen back and paper label. A few of the only 250 sets printed remain available. The price is \$6.00—plus fifteen cents for sales tax for those members living in California.

### A CHECK-LIST OF CLUB KEEPSAKES

1934-1946

"A Camera in the Gold Rush," the Club's 1946 keepsake series, is in preparation. The title-page and parts one to five have been distributed to members and the remaining parts will follow monthly throughout the year. The series



consists of twelve folders, each containing a hitherto unknown photograph (reproduced in collotype) of a town or mining scene, made by the pioneer California photographer, R. H. Vance. Texts are by Edith M. Coulter and Jeanne Van Nostrand, authorities on the pictorial history of early California. There will also be a note on Vance by Ansel Adams. This is the tenth series to be issued by the Club.

Members frequently write asking what Club publications remain in print. In the December issue of the News-Letter a complete listing of books was given. Immediate requests, especially from new members, showed that the listing was appreciated.

Certain parts of the earlier keepsake series are still available, in a few cases the entire sets. It is felt, therefore, that the following complete listing of the keepsakes so far issued will have a certain reference value by indicating what parts remain in stock. Out-of-print items are preceded by an asterisk. The price of the parts still on hand is 50¢ each. In most cases only a few copies remain. The printers' names are in parentheses.

## THE CALIFORNIA MINING TOWNS: 1934

*Reproductions of twelve early lithographs, with brief historical texts.*

- \*Sonora (Johnck & Seeger)
- \*Sutter's Mill (The Windsor Press)
- \*Downieville (The Grabhorn Press)
- \*Auburn (Schwabacher-Frey Company)
- \*Shasta (Frank McCaffrey)
- Nevada City (University of California Press)
- \*Jackson (The Metropolitan Press)
- \*Grass Valley (Stanford University Press)
- \*Angel's Camp (Ward Ritchie Press)
- Placerville (Santa Ana Junior College)
- \*Columbia (Schwartz & Company)

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\*Scott's Bar (Knight-Counihan)

Title-page and map (The Eucalyptus Press)

### THE LETTERS OF WESTERN AUTHORS: 1935

*Facsimile letters of twelve Western authors, with comment by contemporary writers.*

\*George Sterling, Comment by Robinson Jeffers (The Grabhorn Press)

\*Bret Harte, Comment by George R. Stewart (The Windsor Press)

\*Frank Norris, Comment by Franklin Walker (Johnck & Seeger)

\*Richard Henry Dana, Comment by James D. Hart (Ward Ritchie Press)

\*John Muir, Comment by Charles Keeler (Schwartz & Company)

\*Henry George, Comment by Howard Jay Graham (Taylor & Taylor)

\*Joaquin Miller, Comment by Juanita Miller (McAllister & Dahlstrom)

\*Josiah Royce, Comment by B. H. Lehman (University of California Press)

\*Mark Twain, Comment by C. E. S. Wood (John Henry Nash)

\*Clarence King, Comment by Francis P. Farquhar (The Plantin Press)

Jack London, Comment by Charmain London (Gregg Anderson)

Title-page and foreword (The Archetype Press)

### THE CALIFORNIA LITERARY PAMPHLETS: 1936

*Six pamphlets by Western writers of the past, with forewords by contemporary authors.*

\*Over an Absinthe Bottle by W. C. Morrow. Foreword by Charles Caldwell Dobie (The Grabhorn Press)

Poems by Nora May French. Foreword by Sarah Bard Field (The Archetype Press)

Selections from Prattle by Ambrose Bierce. Foreword by Joseph Henry Jackson (The Windsor Press)

An Itinerant House by Emma Frances Dawson. Foreword by Paul Jordan-Smith (Ward Ritchie Press)

Afoot to Yosemite by John Muir. Foreword by Aurelia Henry Reinhardt (The Eucalyptus Press)



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A Night at Wingdam by Bret Harte. Foreword by Idwal Jones  
(The Plantin Press)

### CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA SHORT STORIES:

1937

*Six stories by California authors, each with a foreword by the author.*

- \*The Hold-Up by Stewart Edward White (Johnck & Seeger)
- \*A Murder at the Dome by Gelett Burgess (University of California Press)
- \*The Crystal Ball by Charles Caldwell Dobie (John Henry Nash)
- \*The Foghorn by Gertrude Atherton (The Grabhorn Press)
- \*Pepe by James Hopper (Ward Ritchie Press)
- His Wife Could Eat No Lean by Ruth Comfort Mitchell (The Plantin Press)

### COAST AND VALLEY TOWNS OF EARLY CALIFORNIA: 1938

*Reproductions of twelve early lithographs, with brief historical texts.*

- San Francisco. Text by Douglas S. Watson (Crocker-Union)
- Monterey. Text by George L. Harding (The Archetype Press)
- Sacramento. Text by Caroline Wenzel (The Grabhorn Press)
- \*Santa Barbara. Text by Edith M. Coulter (Wallace Kibbee & Son)
- Santa Cruz. Text by George Tays (John Henry Nash)
- \*Los Angeles. Text by J. Gregg Layne (Ward Ritchie Press)
- Marysville. Text by Earl Ramey (Johnck & Seeger)
- Stockton. Text by George Ezra Dane (The Windsor Press)
- Crescent City. Text by Fulmer Mood (Taylor and Taylor)
- Benicia. Text by Rosalind A. Keep (The Eucalyptus Press)
- San Diego. Text by Franklin Walker (The Plantin Press)
- San Jose. Text by Mrs. Fremont Older (The Gillick Press)

### SIX CALIFORNIA TALES: 1939

*Six pamphlets, each with a biographical sketch of the author.*

- \*The Gentleman in the Barrel by Chester Bailey Fernald (The Archetype Press)

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The Case of Summerfield by W. H. Rhodes (The Windsor Press)

\*Orso by Henry Sienkiewicz (Ward Ritchie Press)

The Trumpet Comes to Pickeye by Joseph T. Goodman (The Grabhorn Press)

The Ape and the Idiot by W. C. Morrow (Johnck & Seeger)

My Day in the Wilderness by Helen Hunt Jackson (John Henry Nash)

### PACIFIC ADVENTURES: 1940

*Six pamphlets, each containing a narrative of an early explorer of the Pacific area. Forewords by Earle E. Weller.*

The King of California, Drake (The Archetype Press)

A Description of the Southernmost Parts of California, Shelvocke (The Grabhorn Press)

The Wreck of the Wager, Byron (The Windsor Press)

The Sack of Monterey, Corney (Schwabacher-Frey)

The Manilla Galleons, Anson (Ward Ritchie Press)

The Death of Captain Cook, Cook (The Eucalyptus Press)

### CALIFORNIA ON CANVAS: 1941

*Twelve folders, each containing a reproduction, in color, of an early California scene drawn by a contemporary artist. The entire series is designed and printed by the Grabhorn Press. (Eight folders printed. Series will be completed when stock of the weight and quality of the first parts is again available.)*

Custom House, Monterey. Probably done about 1875. Unsigned.

River Bridge, Sacramento. Reproduced from a watercolor made in 1875 by J. Lamson.

Steamer Cornelia. Reproduced from an oil painting by an unknown artist. Probably made in the middle '50s.

Telegraph Hill, San Francisco. Reproduced from original in the Historical Collection of the Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco.

Yerba Buena, 1837, from a watercolor by Jean Jacques Vioget.

High Flume, Tunnel Hill, Amador County, 1857. J. Lamson, artist.

San Diego Mission, from an oil painting by H. M. T. Powell, who reached San Diego on December 4, 1849.



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Sutter's Fort in the late '60s or early '70s. Reproduced from an oil painting of an artist named Davenport.

### GUARDIANS OF THE PACIFIC: 1942

*Six pamphlets, each characteristic of the literature and national spirit of a nation bordering upon the Pacific. (Only three of the six pamphlets have been published to date. As each of the remaining three is completed it will be mailed to those who held membership in the Club in 1942 and 1943. Newer members may purchase copies, upon publication, at 50¢ each.)*

\*Romance of the Sea by Henry Lawson (The Windsor Press)

Tales and Parables of Old China, translated by Lin Yutang  
(Wallace Kibbee & Son)

Cartagena by Armando Solano (The Eucalyptus Press)

### A CAMERA IN THE GOLD RUSH: 1946

*Twelve folders, and title-page, containing photographs of Pacific Coast towns, camps, and mining operations of pioneer days. Edited, with texts, by Edith M. Coulter and Jeanne Van Nostrand. The following have been distributed to members:*

Title-page folder with photograph of Gold Rush photographer,  
Robert H. Vance, and his staff

Mare Island Navy Yard about 1860

Sacramento Flood, probably photographed in 1861

Forest Hill, Placer County, one of the prettiest of the mining  
towns

Coloma, site of Marshall's discovery

Mining in the bed of the American River about 1859

Balance of folders will follow monthly throughout year.

### SLIPCASES

The slipcase situation continues to be difficult. Cases for the current series are complete with the exception of title labels—and no title leather is available! Title labels will be added as soon as this leather is obtainable. Orders will be kept on file and completed as soon as possible.

The situation in regard to slipcasses for earlier series is the same. Orders are on file and will be filled as soon as the bindery can obtain necessary materials to make production possible.

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## ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP

The following names have been added to the roll since the appearance of the December News-Letter:

<i>Member</i>		<i>Sponsor</i>
Moore S. Achenbach	San Francisco	Flodden W. Heron
Frank P. Adams	San Francisco	S. Marshall Kempner
Lewis Allen	San Francisco	George L. Harding
Donald P. Bean	Stanford University	Flodden W. Heron
Kennan A. Beard	Modesto	Cora A. Beard
Don Belding	Los Angeles	Edgar Waite
Frederic A. Chase	Los Angeles	Edgar Waite
Miss Cherrie Child	San Francisco	Carl Melugin
Webster V. Clark	Oakland	Dr. Frank H. Pierce
Glenn Collins	Piedmont	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Donald Coney	Berkeley	Miss Edith M. Coulter
Jay T. Cooper	San Francisco	Flodden W. Heron
M. L. Crimmins, Jr.	Atherton	Morgan A. Gunst
James R. Dalziel	San Francisco	Lewis Allen
O. W. Deaner	San Francisco	Truby J. Lawrence, Jr.
Douglas Dorn	San Francisco	John Howell
Miss May Dornin	Berkeley	Miss Edith M. Coulter
Donald Ehrman	Menlo Park	Morgan A. Gunst
David Elliott	San Francisco	Lewis Allen
Josua Eppinger, Jr.	San Francisco	Edgar Waite
Morse Erskine	San Francisco	Morgan A. Gunst
Miss Muriel M. Fisher	San Francisco	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Robert Earl Fisher	San Francisco	Edgar Waite
Charles Fleming	Richmond, Virginia	Oscar Lewis
Miss Margery Fontana	San Francisco	Carl Melugin
George L. Gary	Oakland	Harold Holmes
W. B. Geissinger	Beverly Hills	Edgar Waite
John B. Goodman	Beverly Hills	Glen Dawson
Everett D. Graff	Chicago, Illinois	Glen Dawson
Robert A. Griffen	Reno, Nevada	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. George P. Griffith, Jr.	Beverly Hills	Miss Anita Crellin
K. L. Hamman	Oakland	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
J. G. Hawkins	Sacramento	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
F. B. Henderson, Jr.	San Francisco	Paul Elder, Jr.
James H. Henry	Stockton	Frank A. West
William J. Holliday	Tucson, Arizona	John Howell
Max Hughes	San Francisco	George Fields
Dr. Victor Mathieu Kagan	San Rafael	M. E. Harlan
S. S. Kauffman	San Francisco	Morgan A. Gunst
Mrs. Gerald D. Kennedy	Stockton	John Howell
Justin F. Kohl	Berkeley	Edgar Waite
Miss Lois Law	Albuquerque, N. M.	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Truby J. Lawrence, Jr.	San Francisco	Oscar Lewis



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## Member

E. Rene Leach  
George W. Leistner  
Lewis F. Lengfeld  
O. C. Majors  
Eric Mayell  
W. E. Mansfield  
Miss Natalie Norris  
Richard Penoyer  
H. W. Porte  
Will Ransom  
T. J. Ready, Jr.  
Sidney L. Schwartz  
Harvey Scott  
Mrs. Stanley Sinton, Jr.  
Walter E. Stoddard  
Guy Street  
Robert Marquis Strong, Jr.  
George C. Tenney  
Miss Margaret Tinning  
Howard G. Vesper  
Robert E. Wade, Jr.  
C. D. Wagar  
Charles E. Weniger  
Mrs. Stephen White  
Roberton F. Williams  
Lloyd E. Wilson  
Robert J. Woods  
John B. Worden  
George Xanthapoulides

San Francisco  
Stockton  
San Francisco  
San Francisco  
Millbrae  
Walnut Creek  
Boston, Mass.  
La Canada  
San Francisco  
Norman, Oklahoma  
El Cerrito  
San Francisco  
Oakland  
San Francisco  
Sacramento  
Oakland  
Pasadena  
San Francisco  
San Francisco  
San Francisco  
San Francisco  
Oakland  
Angwin  
San Francisco  
Piedmont  
San Francisco  
Los Angeles  
Berkeley  
Old Phaleron, Greece

## Sponsor

Lee L. Stopple  
David Magee  
Flodden W. Heron  
Richard H. Shainwald  
David Magee  
Oscar Lewis  
Mrs. Elizabeth Downs  
Mrs. Edmund L. Engel  
Flodden W. Heron  
Mrs. Elizabeth Downs  
Mrs. Elizabeth Downs  
Lawrence Livingston  
Glenn Collins  
Morgan A. Gunst  
Oscar Lewis  
Edgar Waite  
Charles Yale  
Henry W. Grady  
Archibald B. Tinning  
Edgar Waite  
Guy Street  
Edgar Waite  
Flodden W. Heron  
Edgar Waite  
Lewis Lengfeld  
Flodden W. Heron  
Lee L. Stopple  
Harold Holmes  
Morgan A. Gunst

Late last year the Club set aside one hundred copies of *An Original Issue of The Spectator*, one copy to be presented to each of the first hundred new members to be added to the roll. As it became evident that considerably more than one hundred planned to join the Club, the Directors voted to present *The Persistence of Poetry* by Witter Bynner to new members after the one hundred mark was reached. This book was published by the Club in 1929 and each copy is signed by the author. Several have already been presented to new members. This very attractive offer will be continued as long as the copies last or until the constitutional limit of 600 Regular Members is reached. Those who have friends who wish to take ad-

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vantage of this necessarily limited offer are urged to propose their names promptly. New members also receive all parts of the current keepsake series that have been printed to date in order that their sets may be complete at the end of the year.

### PUBLICATIONS

The following Club publications are in stock and available to members:

THE BEAUTIES OF BOSWELL, by Thomas Rowlandson. Ten color reproductions in a portfolio. The Grabhorn Press, 250 copies. \$6.

BALLADS OF ELDORADO, selected by Earle V. Weller. An anthology of early California ballads. The Ward Ritchie Press, 300 copies. \$3.

THE FINAL STANZA, Lewis Browne. A chapter in the life of Heine. Johnck & Seeger, 300 copies. \$1.17.

THE PERSISTENCE OF POETRY, by Witter Bynner. Poetry's place in the modern world. The Windsor Press, 300 copies. \$2.

LILITH, George Sterling. A narrative poem. Taylor & Taylor, 350 copies. \$2.

CONTINENT'S END: An Anthology of Contemporary California Poets. John Henry Nash, 600 copies. \$5.

Since the last issue of the News-Letter, five Club publications have gone out of print: *An Original Issue of The Spectator* by Eric Partridge (printed by The Grabhorn Press), *Fire and Other Poems* by D. H. Lawrence (The Grabhorn Press), *Bierce and the Poe Hoax* by Carroll D. Hall (The Windsor Press), *A Sojourn in California by the King's Orphan* by G. M. Waseurtz af Sandels (The Grabhorn Press), and *The Diary of Patrick Breen* (The L-D Allen Press). The last named was issued in May of this year and was completely sold out within a few weeks of publication.



## MISCELLANY

The "Fifty Books of the Year" for 1946, selected from books printed and published in 1945, includes six books produced in California, one of which was published by the Club. These are: *Charter of the United Nations* and *Renaissance Guides to Books* by Archer Taylor, printed by the University of California Press, *Dr. Johnson's Prayers* printed by Taylor & Taylor, *The Queen of California* printed by the Colt Press, *Memorial and Proposals of Senor Don Jose Martin on the Californias, Mexico, 1822*, printed by The Grabhorn Press, and *Heraldry of New Helvetia*, by Carroll D. Hall, printed by the L-D Allen Press and published by the Club.

For four consecutive years, 1938 to 1941, the Rounce & Coffin Club of Los Angeles, an organization of printers and others interested in the making of books, sponsored the selection and exhibition of fine books produced under the specific conditions that hold west of the Rocky Mountains. After more than three years of war, the club decided to resume the program and the selection of the "Western Books of 1946" has recently been announced. From a total of 113 books produced during the calendar years 1942 to 1945, submitted by 28 printers and publishers, the jury selected 55 items, including two published by The Book Club of California. These were *The Beauties of Boswell*, published in December 1942, and *A Sojourn in California by the King's Orphan*, published in December 1945. Both were printed by The Grabhorn Press. The itinerary of the showing of this year's selection has been arranged provisionally as follows:

UCLA Library, Los Angeles, June 3-June 16.

Los Angeles Public Library, June 19-July 13.

University of Southern California, July 15-July 27.

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University of California, Berkeley, August 1-August

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San Francisco Public Library, August 19-August 31.

California State Library, Sacramento, September 4-September 19.

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THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA, founded in 1912, is a non-commercial, non-profit association of booklovers and collectors who have a special interest in Pacific Coast history, literature and fine printing.

Its chief aims are to further the interests of book collectors in the West, to promote an understanding and appreciation of fine books, and to enhance the pleasures that come from their collection and study. These aims find expression in the following activities:

**PUBLICATIONS:** The Club publishes two or three books a year, in editions of from 250 to 350 copies, which are sold at cost, and only to members. The publications are selected examples of the work of the foremost fine printers of the West.

**KEEPSAKES:** Each year the Club issues and distributes to members a series of keepsakes, in six or twelve parts, each of which is designed by a Pacific Coast printer.

**NEWS-LETTER:** This quarterly keeps members informed of Club activities and presents in each number brief papers on various phases of book collecting, with special reference to the interests of Western collectors. The News-Letter, like the keepsakes, is supplied without cost to the members.

The Club is limited to six hundred members. When vacancies exist membership is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims and whose applications are approved by the Board of Directors. Regular Membership involves no responsibilities beyond payment of the annual dues of \$10.00, there being no initiation fee. Dues date from the month of the member's election.

The Club's policies and activities are governed by a board of directors, elected annually. The present officers and directors are: Morgan A. Gunst, President; Oscar Lewis, Vice-President; George L. Harding, Treasurer; Flodden W. Heron, Secretary; Francis P. Farquhar, Joseph Henry Jackson, T. M. Lilienthal, Edgar Waite, and E. V. Weller, directors.